

Vegetable varieties



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Concerning This Bulletin

PLANT breeders are constantly striving to improve most of our vegetables. Many new or improved varieties are released each year by state, federal, or commercial breeders. Some of these introductions have desirable qualities; others only limited value. Each year the Department of Vegetable Crops at Cornell University tests many new varieties to determine their general adaptability to northeastern conditions. This bulletin lists a few of the more promising varieties that commercial or home-garden vegetable growers may want to try along with their locally tested and proved strains.

Cover illustration

H. M. Munger and J. J. Natti with Empire Danish, a Cornell introduction

Acknowledgments

The generous cooperation of seedsmen, experiment station workers, vegetable growers, county agents, and graduate students in assisting in the trials and freely exchanging information is deeply appreciated. The cooperation of Dr. Stewart Dallyn at the Long Island Vegetable Research Farm has been particularly helpful.

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There is no "perfect" variety for all conditions. Don't skimp on your seed order. Buy only from reputable seed firms and be sure to try some new varieties each year.

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Varieties that have proved satisfactory for most areas of New York are listed alphabetically by crop. Grow these "standard" varieties for the major part of your planting, but be sure to try the new varieties listed on pages 6 to 11 and others that your seedsman may suggest.

A publication of the
New York State College of Agriculture,
a unit of the State University of New York,
at Cornell University

Vegetable Varieties



John Carew, Alvin Hamson, and John Wiebe

YOU need good seed to grow good vegetables. Choosing the proper variety is important, whether you are in business or gardening for a hobby.

Making the right decision, however, is often difficult, particularly when you read about the numerous varieties listed in seed catalogues. If you are an

experienced grower, it is tempting to re-order old standbys you know are dependable. If you are a novice, you may be bewildered by the number of choices. This publication describes a few promising vegetables worthy of trial and also lists those generally accepted by experienced growers.

How to Buy Vegetable Varieties

Keep these points in mind when you buy vegetable seeds:

There is no "perfect" variety—you must often compromise between such characters as earliness, disease resistance, yield, eating quality, and the like.

Buy only from reputable seed firms. Except for beans, peas, and other large-seeded crops, the cost of seed is usually a minor part of your production expenses. The \$2 you "save" on a pound of tomato seed may cost you \$200 by the end of the season.

Try new varieties. New and better disease-resistant strains are coming on the market every year. They may be worth money to you. Make sure they're

given a fair trial before you change completely from your regular varieties.

The Departments of Vegetable Crops at Ithaca and Geneva, in cooperation with county agents and vegetable growers, conduct a large number of variety trials each year to evaluate new releases. They attempt to compare yields and quality. It is obvious, however, that the *quality* of vegetable varieties is often of more importance than the *yield*. Getting agreement among growers on just what is the "best" variety is commonly impossible.

The following list, therefore, includes a few varieties generally accepted as being good and worthy of trial; it is by no means complete.

Try These New Varieties

Snap Bean

Slendergreen (Rogers Bros.) has been on the market several years. It is a bush green snap bean well adapted for processing because of its good yield of straight, long, round, slender pods. Pod color is medium green, slightly lighter than *Tendergreen*. Results in Madison County and Ithaca trials this year indicate that *Slendergreen* should be given thorough trial by all market and processing bean producers. The strain now available has a more upright growth than that originally released.

Seminole (Everglades Experiment Station, Florida) comes originally from a bean numbered B2884 by the Southeastern Vegetable Breeding Laboratory. It is a round-podded, green bush bean, maturing about three days later than *Tendergreen*. Pods are fairly straight and smooth but slightly lighter in color. Yields in other States have been reported higher than those of *Tendergreen*. Although the future value of *Seminole* in New York is uncertain, it is at least worthy of trial.

Cabbage

Empire Danish (Cornell University) is a yellows-resistant Danish ballhead cabbage bred specifically to meet New York requirements. In appearance it most nearly resembles a strain commonly referred to as *Donk's Danish*.

Empire Danish is slightly higher yielding than standard resistant or sus-

ceptible Danish strains when the yellows disease is not present. It has complete, or type A, yellows resistance. The heads have the same shape, color, leaf retention and density as some New York selected strains, such as *Donk's*. They also show the same amount of variability in stem length and head shape as these strains.

Other yellows-resistant Danish strains, such as *Wisconsin Hollander* and *Wisconsin Ballhead*, have not always been fully satisfactory. *Empire Danish* deserves a trial planting wherever yellows is a problem on Danish cabbage.

Cucumber

Ohio MR25 (Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and H. J. Heinz Co.) is a black spine, pickling cucumber similar to *Yorkstate Pickling* and *Ohio MR17*, but with more tolerance to mosaic and better resistance to angular leaf spot. Fruits are slightly shorter but yields are higher, particularly under conditions of heavy mosaic or leaf spot infection.

Wisconsin SMR 12 (University of Wisconsin) is also a black spine, pickling cucumber but with both scab (also called *pox* or *spot rot*) and mosaic resistance (hence the abbreviation *SMR*). Where either or both of these diseases are a problem, this variety is worthy of trial.

Long Marketer (Ferry-Morse) will be welcomed by growers wanting a *Marketer* with longer fruit. This vari-



Photo from H. J. Heinz

Figure 1. Ohio MR25 is a pickling cucumber similar to Yorkstate Pickling and Ohio MR17, but with greater disease resistance.

ety, however, has the same color and shape as regular Marketer. Although opinions differ concerning the desirability of a longer fruited cucumber, Long Marketer merits trial.

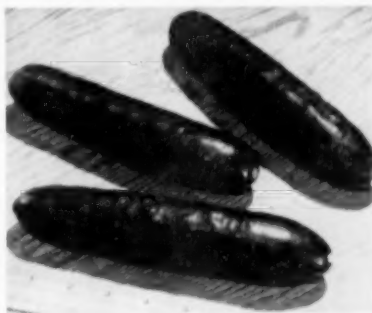


Figure 2. Long Marketer has longer fruit than regular Marketer.

Photo from Ferry-Morse



Photo by J. C. Walker

Figure 3. Wisconsin SMR 12 is a pickling cucumber resistant to both scab or pox and mosaic

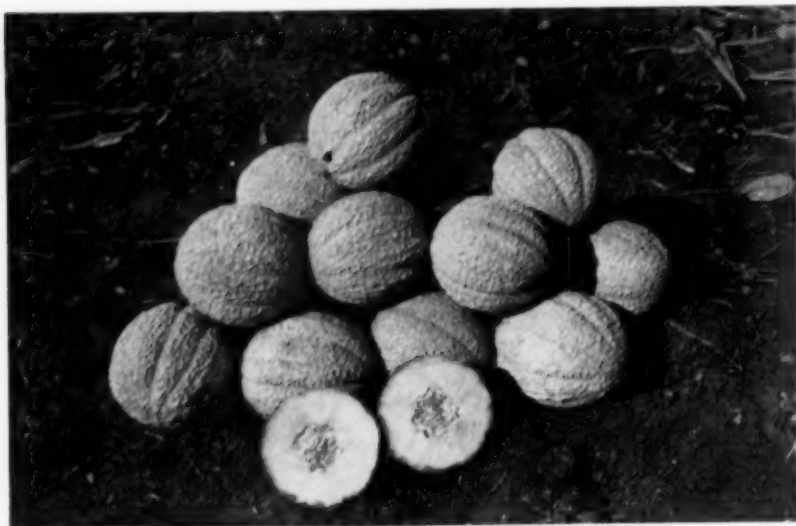


Photo from Joseph Harris Co.

Figure 4. *Harvest Queen* is a new muskmelon similar to *Queen of Colorado* (also *Pride of Wisconsin* and *Market King*) and is resistance to fusarium wilt.

Muskmelon

Harvest Queen (Jos. Harris Co.) looks like the answer for growers who wish to raise the *Queen of Colorado* (similar to *Pride of Wisconsin* or *Market King*) type of muskmelon on soil infested with fusarium wilt. This is a high-quality melon, slightly later than *Iroquois*, with oval, medium-sized, firm-fleshed fruits. It is a welcome addition to the other fusarium-wilt resistant melons, *Delicious 51* and *Iroquois*.

Burpee Hybrid (W. Atlee Burpee Co.) has looked excellent in trials for the past three years. It is an early to mid-season melon maturing later than *Delicious 51* but before *Iroquois*. This promising melon is most similar in appearance to *Iroquois* or *Seneca*

Bender, but fruits are slightly longer and less deeply ribbed. Interior color and eating quality have been excellent. Melons raised at Ithaca have averaged more than 4 pounds in weight.

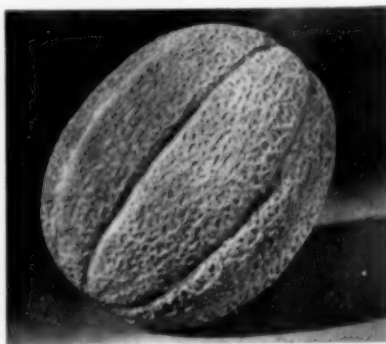


Photo from W. Atlee Burpee

Figure 5. *Burpee Hybrid* muskmelon is a heavily netted variety with high quality.

Onion

Twelve new onion hybrids have been named and released jointly by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and several state experiment stations.

Early Harvest is an extra early hybrid for the onion-set area. *Fiesta* is a better keeping, more attractive sweet Spanish onion. *Pioneer* was developed mainly for Colorado conditions. Several varieties, higher yielding than Early Yellow Globe, that look good for the short-term storage areas are *Champion*, *Abundance*, *Contender*, *Elite*, and *Encore*. Where late storing is desired, *Aristocrat*, *Surprise*, *Epoch*, and *Bonanza* are more productive than Brigham Yellow Globe.

Further trial is necessary before the better varieties will stand out. To date, *Champion*, *Aristocrat*, and *Epoch* look particularly good in the East. Seed of many of these varieties may not be commercially available for a few years. Watch seed catalogues for an opportunity to purchase trial samples.

Summer Squash

Seneca Prolific Hybrid (Robson Quality Seeds, Inc.) is a new, improved, yellow summer squash. It is slightly earlier than *Yankee Hybrid* and *Early Prolific Straightneck* with considerably smoother fruits. This attractive first-generation hybrid should be tried wherever yellow summer squash are grown.



Photo from Robson Quality Seeds

Figure 6. *Seneca Prolific Hybrid* is an improved hybrid, yellow summer squash.



Photo from All-America Selections

Figure 7. *Golden Beauty* is an All-America early maturing sweet corn with good resistance to bacterial wilt.

Sweet Corn

Golden Beauty (University of Massachusetts) is probably the outstanding new vegetable variety for 1955. This early sweet corn matures about the same time as North Star and slightly earlier than Marcross. The plant is from 5 to 6 feet tall, with 12- to 14-rowed ears approximately 7 to 8 inches long, slightly longer than North Star.

Its greatest advantage over North Star is its higher resistance to Stewart's Disease or bacterial wilt. This insect-spread wilt has been particularly destructive on early sweet-corn varieties during the past two years. *Golden Beauty* is strongly suggested for extensive trial in all sweet-corn areas even where wilt is not a problem.

Seneca Super Market (Robson

Quality Seeds) is a high-quality, yellow, sweet corn in the Golden Cross maturity season. This new hybrid showed marked resistance to drouth and bacterial wilt in the Hudson Valley trials. Husk coverage and ear tip fill are excellent. *Seneca Super Market* rates a trial planting for all growers of mid-season sweet corn.

Iosquaw (Iowa State College) is a white-silked Iochief. This mid-season, yellow hybrid has a more attractive ear than its close relative Iochief. Unfortunately, it has considerably less resistance to bacterial wilt. If you are in a wilt-free area or if wilt is not expected to be prevalent, plant a small acreage of *Iosquaw* for comparison with Iochief. Where wilt is anticipated, however, the variety probably will not perform well.

Tomato

Fireball (Jos. Harris Co.) is well worth trying as a first early tomato. It produces large, mild flavored, evenly-colored, fruit earlier than most other varieties. The foliage is sparse and open with an appearance similar to Victor and Early Wonder. *Fireball*, a stable (true-breeding) variety (not a hybrid) will show to greatest advantage when it is planted in the field extra early and supplied with an abundance of fertilizer and moisture. This is not a main-crop tomato; its merit lies mainly in earliness and large fruit size.



Photo from Joseph Harris Co.

Figure 8. *Moreton Hybrid* produces large red fruit as early as *Valiant* and continues to bear heavily throughout the season.

Moreton Hybrid (Jos. Harris Co.) is a promising hybrid¹ tomato. It matures large, red, slightly flattened fruits on large vines in the same season as *Valiant* (about 70 days). Better than *Valiant*, however, it continues to produce a crop of smooth-shaped medium to large fruits throughout the summer. Seed of this new hybrid variety is expensive. Many farmers already consider it worth the price. It deserves a trial planting.

Solid Red (Eastern States Farmers Exchange) is the firmest tomato yet released. Even when fully ripe, fruits of this variety are as solid as green fruits of many others. Unfortunately *Solid Red* is almost as late as *Rutgers* and probably not so productive as might be desired in upstate New York. The medium size fruits ripen uniformly, but their shape is somewhat variable. *Solid Red* may now be of value to growers seeking late, extra-firm tomatoes. It is certain, however, that this outstanding tomato will be used as a parent in future breeding work to give earlier, firmer, market tomatoes. Seed will not be generally available for a year or two.

Watermelon

Golden Honey Cream (Robson Quality Seeds) is an improved *Honey Cream* with deeper yellow flesh. It is an early round melon, mainly suited for roadside-stand trade and home gardeners.

¹It is now generally agreed that the term *hybrid* will be used only to designate the first generation (F_1) of a cross between two inbreds. Later generations will be referred to as the F_2 of the hybrid, rather than incorrectly stated as an F_1 hybrid.

These Varieties Are Suggested for General Use

Asparagus

Mary Washington (P)

Beans, Lima

Bush or dwarf

Fordhook 242 (P)—large seed

Triumph—small seed

Pole

Ideal or King of the Garden

Beans, Snap

Bush (green)

Bountiful, Plentiful—flat pods

Stringless Black Valentine, Contender—
oval pods

Tendergreen (P), Supergreen (P), Tenderlong 15, Wade, Slendergreen (P)
—round pods

Bush (wax)

Surecrop Wax—flat pods

Cherokee Wax—oval pods

Kinghorn Wax (P)—round pods

Pole (green)

Blue Lake, Scotia, Kentucky Wonder

Pole (wax)

Kentucky Wonder Wax

Beans, Dry or Field

California Red Kidney—red kidney

Monroe—pea bean

White Kidney—white kidney

Perry Marrow—marrow

Yelloweye—yelloweye

Beets

Early Wonder or Crosby—flattened, early

Detroit Dark Red (P)

Broccoli

Green Mountain (P), DeCicco (P), Italian Green Sprouting (P), Waltham 29 (P)

Brussels Sprouts

Catskill

Cabbage

White

Early

Golden Acre, Yellows Resistant Golden Acre, Copenhagen Market, Wisconsin Copenhagen (yellows resistant)

Midseason:

Marion Market (yellows resistant), Bonanza, Glory (P)

Late

Danish Ballhead strains, Wisconsin Hollander

Red

Red Danish

Savoy

Chieftain

Carrots

Pointed roots

Imperator, Gold Spike (short top, slender root)

Blunt roots

Nantes (P), Red Cored Chantenay (P), Royal Chantenay

Cauliflower

Early (The following are similar although not necessarily identical.)

Early Snowball, Snowcap, Snowball A, Super Snowball, Super Junior

Main crop

Concentrated cutting period: (The following are similar although not necessarily identical.) Snowball E, Snowball Imperial, Seneca Snowball, Snowball M, Early Snowdrift

Normal cutting period: (The following are similar although not necessarily identical.) Snowball X, Improved Holland Erfurt, Snowball 16, Snowball Perfected, Snowdrift, Snowball Y, Snowball 25.

²(P) Also suggested for commercial processing.

Celery*Yellow or self-blanching*

Cornell 19, Cornell 619, Golden Plume

Green

Emerson Pascal (blight resistant), Utah strains

Cucumber*Slicing*

Marketer, Niagara (mosaic resistant), Burpee-Hybrid

Pickling

Yorkstate Pickling (mosaic resistant), Ohio MR 17 (mosaic resistant), Wisconsin SR 6 (scab resistant)

Eggplant

Black Beauty, Black Magic

Endive

Full Heart Batavian (escarole), Green Curled (chicory)

Kale

Dwarf Curled

Kohlrabi

Early White Vienna

Leek

American Flag

Lettuce*Head**Crisp head*

456 (heat tolerant), Pennlake, Great-lakes

Butterhead

White Boston

Cos or Romaine

Parris Island, Trianon or White Paris

Leaf

Salad Bowl, Black Seeded Simpson

Muskmelon*Early*

Delicious 51 (fusarium resistant), Seneca Delicious

Main crop

Iroquois (fusarium resistant), Golden Delight, Market King (similar to Pride of Wisconsin and Queen of Colorado)

Onion

Early Yellow Globe, Brigham Yellow Globe, Yellow Sweet Spanish (from plants), Ebenezer (from sets)

Parsley

Paramount

Parsnip

Model

Peas*Early*

Worlds Record, Greater Progress, Wando (heat tolerant), Surprise (P), Ace (P), Thomas Laxton (P)

Main crop

Victory Freezer (P), Lincoln, Alderman, Perfection (P), Famous (P), Shoshone (P), Shasta (P)

Peppers*Early*

Vinedale (small but early), Burlington (mosaic resistant), Pennwonder

Main crop

Allbig (Ill. F₈), Calwonder, California Wonder

Popcorn

Hybrid Hulled or Minihybrid 250

Potatoes*Early*

Irish Cobbler, Cherokee (scab and late-blight resistant)

Main crop

Katahdin, Ontario (scab resistant), Kennebec

Pumpkins

Small Sugar (New England Pie), Connecticut Field

¹For more specific variety recommendations, consult Cornell Extension Bulletin 890, *Potato Production in New York*.

Radish

Comet, Cherry Belle, Early Scarlet Globe, Cavalier

Rhubarb

Valentine, MacDonald

Rutabaga

Laurentian

Spinach

American, Long Standing Bloomsdale

Squash, Summer*Yellow*

Seneca Prolific, Yankee Hybrid, Early Yellow Prolific

Green

Zucchini, Cocozelle

White

Crystal Bell

Squash, Winter

Butternut, Buttercup, Table Queen, Delicious, Blue Hubbard, Boston Marrow (P)

Sweet Corn*Early*

North Star, Seneca 60, Spanscross

Second Early

Marcross, Carmelcross, Seneca Arrow (P), Tendergold (P)

Main Crop

Golden Cross (P), Seneca Chief, Io-chief (P), Victory Golden (P), Tendermost (P), Ioana (P), Golden Security

Swiss Chard

Fordhook Giant

Tomatoes*Early*

Valiant, Early Hybrid, Valnorth, Vancross, Moreton Hybrid

Main Crop

Longred (P), Red Jacket (P), Rutgers, Big Boy, Red Top (paste type) (P), Sunray (yellow).

Greenhouse or Staked

Comet, Waltham Forcing, Trellis 22

Turnip

Purple Top White Globe

Watermelon

Honey Cream (yellow flesh), Rhode Island Red, New Hampshire Midget (very small)



Published by the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. M. C. Bond, Director of Extension. This bulletin is published and distributed in furtherance of the purposes provided for in the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.